

WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.

Totem Tabloid

May 2017

NEXT MEETING IS MAY 9



Is this your station? Do you wish it was? At the meeting this month, Bengt, K7ADD, will MC a tour of club members' stations. Any ideas of what works well—and what doesn't? Send a few photos to k7add@k7add.com and come prepared to leave with some good ideas of changes to your station layout that will make your time spent more fun and maybe more efficient.

Rob's 125th Street Grill, 125th and Aurora Avenue North Dinner at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is \$ 20 including tax and tip.

Please RSVP your dinner plans to Adam, K7EDX at k7edx@arrl.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

It looks like we might finally be getting some warmer and drier spring weather! I am ready for it, and I am sure you are also. There are always outdoor projects that need to be done. I have both radio and home things on my to-do list so I look forward to being able to work on them.

Sadly, just over a week ago, we lost our good friend Bob Preston, W7TSQ. I was shocked by the news of his passing. As I reflected back on Bob, I was flooded with good memories. A few stood out. Hanging out in Visalia at the Holiday Inn swimming pool, and sitting on his deck drinking a few beers with Helen after working on an antenna project. Good times with a great guy. There are plans for having a summer memorial and when we (the club) know the date we will let everyone know. I will miss him.

Field Day is coming up quick. Just a reminder that there is an open invitation to join the Puget Sound Repeater Group/Seattle ACS if you're looking for a group to connect with. There are multiple club members that are part of this group. Contact Doug Kingston, KD7DK, at kd7dk@arrl.net if you're interested.

Saturday July 15th will be our annual club picnic. Once again it will be hosted at Rob Fanfant, N7QT's QTH in Redmond on Union Hill. This will be a catered BBQ event so you'll only have to bring either an appetizer, dessert or a bottle of wine. The picnic will start around 4:00 p.m. and taper off around 7 p.m. This is a family event. Bring your spouse/significant other and your kids if you like. It was great last year meeting Bob, W7TSQ's grandson whom I had previously never met.

There are plenty of other ham events coming up this summer. SeaPac and the Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Spokane, to name a couple. I plan on being at the DX Convention for sure.

I hope you have a great month and hope to see you at the next club meeting on May 9th. Don't forget to send in some photos to Bengt-Erik (Ben), K7ADD, for the program.



Bob, W7TSQ (Thanks to W6RS and Bart at SteppIR)

Random Comments From the Editor

Another IDXC has come and gone. I've been going to Fresno and later Visalia since the mid-1970s and it's still a lot of fun. If you've never gone, you really should try to go. The technical and DX-related sessions are usually quite good but the main attraction for me, having lived in California for over 40 years, is the chance to meet up with old friends that I now see just once a year.

The club was very well-represented this year—see K7WA's column on page 6, below, for a list of club members who were there. The dates for next year as announced are April 18-22, 2018 (April 18 next year is a Wednesday and things

usually get going on Thursday so either the date announced is wrong or the Southern California DX Club plans to extend the convention by one more day). Hotel reservations may be made online starting on June 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The convention hotel is the Marriott Convention Center but there are 4-5 other hotels close by if, as usual, the Marriott fills up in the first 30 minutes. The website is at <http://dxconvention.org>

This is the first time in many years when I didn't hear at least one rumor about a possible DXpedition. Bouvet 2018 was the DXpedition of interest and Bob, K4UEE, one of the co-leaders, and several of the operators had a table where they were seeking contributions and raffling a Flex SDR (won by Paul Ewing, N6PSE). This will turn out to be the most expensive DXpedition in history. If you haven't made a contribution, please consider doing so. The DXpedition website is at <http://www.bouvetdx.org/> For those who are NCDXF contributors, you can make your contribution tax-deductible; click on "How Can You Help?" and scroll down to the bottom of the page. The group has just added some really neat propagation videos, one per band, complete with background music. Go to the website and click on "propagation" at the top of the home page.

Judging by the size of the crowds, the equipment item of interest this year was Elecraft's new legal limit solid state amplifier, the KPA 1500. You can't order one yet because it doesn't yet have FCC type acceptance but it sounded like they'll start shipping sometime this summer. If you want to check it out, go to <http://www.elecraft.com/KPA1500/KPA1500.htm>

Bob Wilson, N6TV, spends his convention time each year taking photographs—a lot of them. Bob does a great job and a day or so after the convention he makes the photos available online. If you're interested in seeing who was there this year, go to <https://bit.ly/Visalia2017> One thing you'll quickly notice is the complete absence of anyone this side of 50 years old. Each year there's a radio given to the youngest attendee, awarded at the banquet. The MC starts by asking anyone "15 or younger" to stand and if no one stands then it's "20 or younger" and so on. This year the MC got all the way to "35 or younger" before a 31 year-old young woman stood up and claimed the radio. I hope the ARRL is paying attention. We hear a lot these days about this or that being an "existential threat" but the lack of young people coming into our hobby is literally such a threat to the League.

While wandering around at Visalia, I got a few questions about the Yasme Foundation—what it is and what it does. Shameless plug: go to www.yasme.org and spend a few minutes. We've recently completed a major overhaul of the website and hopefully you'll find answers to any questions you might have. And it won't cost you anything: we don't seek or accept contributions.

The 7th Call Area QSO Party, aka 7QP, is this coming Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to midnight. Get on the air, be the object of the pileups and have fun. Complete rules and everything else can be found at www.7qp.org Please listen for the W6 with the "/7" in his call.

2017 Pacific Northwest DX Convention

This year's PNWDXC will be hosted by the Spokane DX Association and the Idaho DX Association. The dates are August 4-6, 2017. For those who attended the last convention in Spokane, the location has changed and it's now to be held downtown at the Red Lion Spokane at the Park. This is the third time the convention has been sponsored by the Eastern Washington group.

The website is at <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/> I know it's still a few months away but you can now make hotel reservations and also register for the convention. There are lots of prizes already listed on the website, including the new IC-7300. The Saturday banquet speaker is Tom Taormina, K5RC/W7RN, owner of the Comstock Memorial mega-station near Virginia City, NV. The Sunday morning breakfast speaker is Ed Muns, WØYK/P49X, contesteer extraordinaire from Aruba and proprietor of Muns Vineyard. Rick Roderick, K5UR, the ARRL President, is on the attendee list.

I attended the convention the last time it was in Spokane and I had a great time—they do a fantastic job of organizing the convention. I hope to see you there.

May Contest Activity Report

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

Editor's Note: Mike reports that there were no major contests last month.

Membership Update

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The WWDXC welcomed one new member last month:

John Zantek, KE7B, of Poulsbo, WA

This year I attended the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA, for the first time in thirty years. These events are great for connecting and reconnecting with friends and acquaintances, seeing the latest in ham radio technology and catching the drift of current trends in DXing and Contesting. And the weather was great, 80 degrees on Saturday afternoon.

Many WWDXC members were in attendance - newer members like Tim, W7EEE, and Ben, K7ADD – and long-time members who have moved on to other parts of the country: Ward, NØAX, Paul, NG7Z and XYL Marilyn, Chip, K7JA and Janet, KL7MF. And it was great to spend some relaxed time with current members Mel, N7GCO; Kip, W6SZN; Rich, W6RS; Dick, K6KR; Curt, WR5J; Mark, K6UFO; Walt, K7ZQ; Mike, K7IR; Rob, N7QT; Brian, N9ADG; Dick, K7BTW; Grant, KZ1W; Bo, N7BK and Ulla, K7AFB; John, KE7V; Yuri, N3QQ; Vince, K7VV; Phil, AB7RW; Randy, W7HR-- and I hope I didn't leave anyone out. Also in attendance were many of the "big signal guys" we work in all the contests and hear in the pileups - always fun to have a word with W9KNI, K3LR, K9CT and others at the top of our game.

SteppIR had the new Urban Beam on display, new amplifiers were shown by Elecraft, Expert Linears and FLEX, and other vendors showed off their wares. Topics covered in the DX and Contest Forums included Remote Operation, Assisted vs. Non-Assisted, Reverse Beacon Net and CW/RTTY Skimmer, new DXCC Entities (not on the horizon) and Deleted Entities (no more coming) and other items of current interest. WRTC-2018 had a presence along with the Northern California DX Foundation.

And don't forget, the Pacific Northwest DX Convention is coming up August 4-6 in Spokane.

May 2017 Contest Calendar

Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has a website that is truly a one-stop place for all things related to contesting. The link is <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> or just Google “WA7BNM” and the first hit is Bruce’s site. With just a few clicks, you’ll find everything you need to know about every contest, large or small. I find it very useful when I hear a station that I want to work that is obviously exchanging contest reports and I don’t know the exchange.

DX Alert Nodes

Bob Nielsen, N7XY (n7xy@n7xy.net)

Current DX Node telnet addresses:

W7PKT- w7pkt.net, PORT 7300

VE7CC-1 145.71 MHz or telnet to dxc.ve7cc.net, port 23

WWDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC DXCC Ladder is maintained on the website. You can find it by clicking on “DXCC Ladder” on the homepage or by going to <http://www.wwdxc.org/dxcc-ladder-2/> and clicking on “click for dxcc ladder” The Ladder is published in the Totem Tabloid once a year in the January issue. Please send your updates to me at wa7srz@frontier.com.

DX Info Sources

John Owens, N7TK (jcowens1@comcast.net)

Discovering what countries (sorry, “entities”) are currently operating on the bands and getting a confirmation (QSL or LOTW) once you work them has become easier in one sense with the flood of electronic information and more difficult in another sense, as the amount of available information is almost overwhelming. Below are some very useful websites that will help solve these problems. If you have other sites that you have found helpful and think should be on this list, please send the info to me at jcowens1@comcast.net and I’ll include it in future issues.

Useful DX Sites

The Daily DX (www.dailydx.com) (subscription service but can’t be beat for timely info)

The DX Zone (www.dxzone.com/catalog/)

Internet Ham Atlas (www.hamatlas.eu)

Announced DX Operations

DX World (<http://dx-world.net>) (look for the “DXW Weekly Bulletin”)

NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page (www.ng3k.com/Misc.adxo.html)

DXing Info (www.dxing.info/dxpeditions)

Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin (www.payays.com/opdx1044.html)

QSL and Manager Info

Pathfinder (Pathfinder.exe) (<http://www.dxlabsuite.com>) (Click on QSL Info)

QSL Manager Lookup (www.IK3QAR.it/manager)

K3WWP QSL Routes (http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/dx_ss_qsling.html)

HamQTH Callbook (www.hamqth.com/)_

ORCA DX and Contest Club (www.orcadxcc.org/index.html) (Good access to QRZ.com)

Global QSL (Card design and bureau QSL service-print and mail)
(www.globalqsl.com/)

Announced DXpeditions

Here are the DXpeditions and dates I have in my calendar as of May 2, 2017 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Botswana (A25UK)	April 25-May 6, 2017
Vietnam (3W9DQ)	May 1-10, 2017
Lord Howe (VK9L/DL1YAF)	May 1-8, 2017
Seychelles (S79J)	May 2-10, 2017
Fernando de Noronha (PYØNY)	May 5-15, 2017
Lakshadweep (VU7KP)	May 15-19, 2017
Galapagos (HC8)	May 15-29, 2017
Eritrea (E31A)	May 19-29, 2017
CQ WPX CW	May 27-28, 2017

Here are the sites and bulletins I look at to find out what's happening on the bands:

The Daily DX	dailydx.com (subscription and free trial available)
DX World	dx-world.net (free)
NG3K Page	www.ng3k.com and then click on ADXO at the top (free)
DX Summit	www.dxsummit.fi (free)
DXScape	www.dxscape.com (free)
DX Heat	https://dxheat.com (free)

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-2000, about three years old. On a scale of 1 to 10 it is a 9+. It's not a 10 because it's not new. I only used it on a 10 meter net three times a week. It comes with a hand mic, power cord and manual. S/N B1600114. I had it serviced 6 months ago and it was given a good report. I'm asking \$ 800, you pay for shipping and insurance.

Dexter Yates, K7IH. Email me at K7IH@comcast.net Phone 425-672-3111

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The Totem Tabloid

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Articles and News Items

The *Tabloid* depends on submissions of articles and news items from its readers. Send all items of interest to the *Tabloid* editor:

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Joining the Western Washington DX Club

To join the WWDXC or sponsor a new member, please send an SASE for a membership application form to the WWDXC, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Annual dues, including a subscription to the *Totem Tabloid*, are \$25.00.

Internet Access

Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at www.wwdxc.org